for Saudi nationals visiting India, to the same level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) It is a fact that the Government of Saudi Arabia has recently increased the visa fee from SR 50/- to SR 1000/- in respect of foreign workers for their employment with the private companies and establishments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(b) The revised fee as stated above is uniformly applicable to workers from all the foreign countries including India.

(c) and (d) The matter was taken up with the concerned authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who have clarified that the revised visa fee is to be borne by the Saudi employers and not by the expatriate workers. It is understood that the modalities in this regard are being worked out by the concerned Saudi authorities.

Nuclear threat by Pakistan

419. SHRI S. AUSTIN:
SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an influential U.S. Congressman had warned the Clinton Administration recently that the nuclear-armed Pakistan would pose a grave thereat, not only to India but to the U.S. as well; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government and the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir, Republic Congressman Bill McCollum in a statement featured in the Congressional Record dated September 12th 1994, drew attention to the report entiled "Pakistan's Nuclear Brinkmanship" of the Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, of the House Republican Research Committee, dated August 24, 1994, which states that "Fully aware that no single country could confront the US on its own, Islamabad stressed the growing significance of nuclear and military cooperation with other radical states as of crucial importance." The report concludes that "Benazir Bhutto, for reasons geopolitical and domestic, is personally leading Pakistan into becoming a key and action component in a major global axis aimed at confronting the US..... It is under Mr. Bhutto that Pakistan has .....raised the profile of its confrontation with the US and India."

(b) Government have consistently held the view for long that Pakistan is pursuing a weapons-oriented nuclear programme. It has been pointed out that Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme had evolved surreptitiously from its infancy. Government have called on the international community to act concertedly to enoure that Pakistan behaves as a responsible member in the comity of nations, and that Pakistan should be forthwith compelled to abandon its nuclear weapons programme.

Visit of the President of South Africa

420. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of South African President, Mr. Nelson Mandela, the question of containing international terrorism in the context of Pakistan's active support to terrorists in Kashmir was discussed with him.

(b) if so, in what precise context and terms and whether he made a distinction between liberation struggle and terrorism; and

(c) what other issues were discussed with him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Several issues of international and mutual bilateral interest, including co-operation with South Africa in the field of low cost housing, small scale industries, public health and primary and secondary education were discussed. The following three agreements were also signed during the visit:—

(i) Treaty on the Principles of Inter-State Relations and Cooperation with the Republic of India and the Republic of South Africa.

(ii) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Republic of South Africa on the Inter-Governmental Joint Commission for Political, Trade Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

(iii) Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of Republic of India and the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa.

Setting up nuclear Monitoring facility by the US in Pakistan

421. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the proposal of the US Government to set up a nuclear monitoring facility in Pakistan to monitor nuclear testing activities in the region; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto, stating the implications involved?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government is aware that the US Government is providing assistance Pakistan to establish a seismic monitoring facility which would enable monitoring of seismic events, including, nuclear explosions in the region.

(b) The seismic monitoring facility is being set up as part of an international seismic network will be used to verify a future Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), currently being negotiated at the Conference on Disarmament at Genava. According to the US Government, the monitoring facility will enable Pakistan to participate in the GSETT-3 (Group of Scientific Express Test 30) nuclear monitoring experiment called for by the United Nations Conference on Disarmament at Geneva in which several other countries, including India, are also participating.

Indo-Nepal treaty of friendship

422. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Nepal have asked Government of India for certain changes in 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty of Friendship;

(b) if so, what changes in the treaty have been suggested by the Government of Nepal; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) (a) to (c) During the visit to India of the Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal. Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, February 6-10, 1995 the Government of Nepal expressed on interest in discussing the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship between India and Nepal with the Government of India. The Government of India had responded that they are willing to discuss all aspects of India-Nepal relations, including the institutional arrangements linking our two countries, with the Government of Nepal.